

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1    1. (Currently Amended) A financial services outsourcing method for facilitating out-  
2    sourcing of tax return preparation services for numerous clients on behalf of a direct ser-  
3    vice provider serving the numerous clients, the financial services being outsourced to a  
4    given outsourcing group, the clients comprising a first set of clients in a first country,  
5    having tax return filing obligations for the first country, and comprising a second set of  
6    clients in a second country having tax return filing obligations for the second country, the  
7    method comprising:

8                for the direct service provider, loading, onto a remotely accessible part of a host  
9    server, client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials, the host  
10   server providing access to a remote computer client of information concerning the client  
11   specific financial files and corresponding reference materials;

12                providing ~~the~~outsourced personnel with limited screen shot access to the host  
13   server connected through a remote limited access client located outside the first and sec-  
14   ond countries, wherein the direct service provider has control of the host server and the  
15   client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials~~s~~ pertaining to a given  
16   tax return loaded thereon;

17                preparing tax returns for the clients of the direct service provider by ~~the~~out-  
18   sourced personnel, the outsourced personnel located outside the first and second countries  
19   and utilizing the limited screen shot access of the client specific financial files and corre-  
20   sponding reference materials~~s~~ on the host server; and

21                monitoring and reporting to the direct service provider a status of the tax return  
22   preparation during the tax return preparation performed by the outsourced personnel,  
23   wherein the direct service provider can obtain a status report in response to a status  
24   change occurring with the tax return preparation.

1    2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tax return preparation ser-  
2    vices comprise individual tax return preparation services.

- 1    3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tax returns are outsourced
- 2    through an intermediary firm to the outsourced personnel.
  
- 1    4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the inter-  
2    mediary firm interacting with the outsourced personnel through use of a servicing com-  
3    puter system, and interacting with ~~the~~ plural direct service providers through use of the  
4    servicing computer system.
  
- 1    5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the direct service  
2    providers comprise an accounting firms.
  
- 1    6. (Cancelled).
  
- 1    7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the host server com-  
2    prises a CITRIX server.
  
- 1    8. (Cancelled).
  
- 1    9. (Cancelled).
  
- 1    10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the host server comprises an  
2    ASP server running tax software for use by plural independent direct service providers  
3    provided with access to the ASP server.
  
- 1    11. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the host server comprises an  
2    ASP server running tax software for use by plural independent direct service providers  
3    provided with access to the ASP server.

- 1 12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the corresponding reference ma-  
2 terials comprise image files of physical reference materials.
- 1 13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the client specific financial files  
2 and corresponding reference materials comprise tax filer specific tax file and image files.
- 1 14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, further comprising loading onto the  
2 remotely accessible part of the host server tax preparation software.
- 1 15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the outsourced personnel pre-  
2 pare tax returns while located in India.
- 1 16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the di-  
2 rect service provider interviewing a tax filer and obtaining supporting documentation for  
3 the tax filer's tax return.
- 1 17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the direct service provider com-  
2 prises an accounting firm.
- 1 18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the supporting  
2 documentation comprises the last season tax return as filed, receipt, and summary infor-  
3 mation regarding finances of the tax filer.
- 1 19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising the di-  
2 rect service provider setting up a tax file compatible with a given tax software package,  
3 and rendering the supporting documentation electronic.
- 1 20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein rendering the supporting docu-  
2 mentation electronic comprises scanning supporting documents into image files.